

What Is the Matter With Our Colleges and Universities?

By HAROLD T. CHASE

SEEHING unrest as an aftermath of the great upheaval of world war is not confined to industrialism. There is an educational unrest that in a peculiar way war accentuated and brought to a head. Teachers in schools, colleges and universities for the past 25 years have been losing prestige. It is a far cry to the age when the school teacher was a community leader and the college professor was a sage. The swift advance of industrialism in the last generation has changed this status. The Business Man has forged ahead, and the teacher has been left behind.

A tendency of a well ordered industrial society should be to apportion earnings to services rendered. And in fact the belief has spread in this rapid industrial age that "every man gets what he earns." Luck has something to do with it, and opportunity, and the rule is not advanced by any of its votaries as rigid and unvarying. But taking classes or occupations as a whole, the rule holds, or should hold. Test opinion on this principle and it will be found that men in business pretty generally hold to the view that compensation is fairly well proportioned to the value of service rendered. There is little sympathy for the whiner. Let him hustle and make himself useful. If a man has anything to offer, society is anxious to pay him what it is worth. If he is poorly paid, the chances are that his contribution to the common good is inferior.

It is a logical implication from all this that college professors render a relatively small service, and it is a fact of common observation that the college professor's exalted status of former times relatively to other callings and occupations has suffered a very marked decline. Where he was looked up to as an oracle by our grandparents, he is somewhat patronized by "practical men" today.

A further necessary implication affects the standing of educated men in general. The value of higher education, leaving the applied sciences out of account, has been more and more sharply challenged. The worth of the college and university is under suspicion. There has been an increasing belief that it is impractical, that it has been overrated, a fetish. So, if the college professor's wages have relatively declined to a plane with those of the mechanic and far below those of the small merchant and clever salesman or saleswoman, is it not a true reflection of the relative value to the com-

munity of higher education? The trusteeship of colleges had come into the hands of business men, who knew values.

There was unrest accordingly in the colleges. Faculty demands were being heard for higher consideration, not only in pay, but in the conduct and control of the college. At several points, at Cornell, in California University, Pennsylvania, Yale and other institutions, faculty recognition became an open issue. In several instances faculty recognition to some extent was accorded. It was plainly the sense of the professorial mind that in the restoration of the teacher to something of his former relative status other things were necessary than adequate or increased compensation.

The effect of the war upon the relative status of the college professor has been marked. For war called upon the whole community, upon every class and all individuals for their peculiar contribution. "What can you do?" was the question the government asked of all, and each asked himself. And it was found what the college professor could do. From the halls of learning he went out to serve the common good in one capacity or another suited to his training and ability. And now college and university presidents are being heard from, complaining of heavy losses. Faculty members having gone out into the service of the nation, have failed to return. Private employment has snapped them up, at wages so vastly greater than they had received that, as the chancellor of one great university has declared, "they are leaving in droves."

Meantime the unrest among educators in harness continues and they press their demands for recognition, for a better position. Many leading universities, unable to pay demanded wages to their teaching force, are campaigning for great additional endowments. The pay of the educator is to be higher than it has ever been.

But even so, can the college professor be held? Having proven his earning capacity, will he be satisfied with a small increase in his remuneration, such as colleges at present can pay?

So among the upheavals that war has strangely effected, few promise to be more startling than those in higher education. For while the supply of college professors has been depleted the demand has received also from the war a notable accretion. Boys in the expedi-

tionary forces witnessed the practical value of education, for the educated young men quickly rose out of the ranks, or obtained commissions at the outset after a brief training in the camps. Many a boy came home with a new conception of the worth of a college training. And many a boy's mother or father has had the experience of

a friend of mine, whose son had chafed in high school, barely made his grades, and continually begged to be permitted to quit school and "get to work." The war came and he promptly enlisted and was among the earliest to arrive in France. His first word when he returned, in spite of the lost two years, was: "Mother, I am going to have a college education. I have found out what it is worth." The colleges and universities are crowded as they never were before with students. The demand for the professors' services has suddenly enlarged.

If by the law of demand and supply it is discovered that to replenish our colleges and to keep them supplied with teachers of the highest training and skill and idealism, the pay of the college professor in a few years must be increased so that he will be on a plane with the most efficient industrial class, credit must be given to the war. And just as the underpayment of the teacher and idealist in an industrial era disparaged him as a factor in the community, lowered his status and brought down respect for education and the judgments of educated men, so his restoration as a seer and leader, a higher esteem of educated opinion, will follow the very substantial relative increase in his pay. And educated opinion, founded on the study of the past, on knowledge of the principles of science and on the wide training of the mind, will be needed by a world facing new times, and bent on a nobler order than that which broke down in 1914.

MANY complaints regarding our colleges have come to The Dearborn Independent during the past year.

Some hold that the professors are not paid enough, some that they get too much, some that many college professors are getting away from American ideals and serve the interests of the powers that prey, some that more pay and better professors are the crying need. At any rate this article is from a man sympathetic with college work but with vision enough to see conditions.

Mr. Chase has been editor of The Topeka, Kansas, Daily Capital (Sen. Capper's paper) for upward of 25 years and in that capacity has been a power in the West. He opens up an interesting subject here.

Dark Outlook in Ireland

By HUGH CURRAN

Dublin, Ireland, Nov.—(By Mail). **T**HE position in Ireland today is one of unexampled difficulty.

So long as politics were regularly constituted with two well-defined protagonists facing one another, each with a clear-cut, well understood policy, it was possible to understand the situation.

Today we have reached a point little removed from chaos.

With two parties, the Home Rule party and the Anti-Home Rule party, the government was perfectly happy.

It played up to each by turns. Now it made a pretense of preparing to give Home Rule, and now it found a pretext for not giving it. Nothing was done and so the contending parties were kept on the alert, ready to clutch each other's throats. That was the position which seemed to suit the government best. Anyhow, on this basis it has been able to carry on for a long time, if not successfully, at all events without any actual crash. The Home Rule party always claimed to be on the verge of success, but the Anti-Home Rulers invariably won the day when the crucial moment arrived.

Sinn Feinism, which has supplanted the old Home Rule ideal, has upset all old theories. Sickened by the repeated failures of many years, the Home Rulers have turned over *en masse* to the Sinn Feiners, and this body now no longer asks for concessions but demands "its country."

"The process by which England lost the American colonies is now in operation in regard to Ireland," was the observation of a leading publicist the other day. "The Americans had the advantage of tackling the problem when it was young and so succeeded in solving it without much difficulty. In Ireland it has been allowed to grow, and centuries of occupation, even though disturbed by sporadic outbursts of rebellion, have laid a foundation which it will be difficult to upset—but not impossible by any means. The policy of Sinn Fein today will burst the connection between Great Britain and Ireland and raise Ireland to the position of a self-governing and independent state, such as it is obvious nature intended her to be."

The analogy between Ireland and America is perhaps not exactly clear. Moreover, it may be doubted whether it would be desirable, even if it were possible, that Ireland should become quite independent of England. It is easier to understand the reasons which have driven the majority of the Irish people to make this demand, than to admit either its feasibility or desirability. England cannot for strategic reasons relinquish her hold on Ireland. She cannot permit the possible establishment of an enemy on her western seaboard. To do so would be to court destruction. An Ireland hostile to England, as it is today, granted the right of self-determination, would inevitably separate itself from

the British connection and set itself up as an independent republic.

The further step of inviting a foreign power to join Ireland in attacking and destroying England would be only a matter of time. England foresees all this quite clearly and has her mind made up. Obviously there can be no concession of independence to Ireland. But that does not say that Ireland must not get any concession. In this matter of Ireland, England's conscience is not easy. She is conscious of wrongs committed in the past, of reparation long overdue, and to her credit it may be said that periodically her qualms make her realize the urgency of some reform. At times she even looks as if she meant business. But the line of least resistance has invariably won the day. It was easier to let things alone than to provoke the hornets' nest of reaction, and get stung in the process.

How the old world would improve if men really knew all the things they pretend to know and women did not know all the things they pretend not to know.

Nine times out of ten the first thing to turn up for the man who is always waiting for something to turn up is the sod in the cemetery.

Many a woman is having a beautiful dream about frills while her husband is having a nightmare about bills!

Prohibition was necessary because so many objected to temperance, thinking that it meant total abstinence.

No man ever acquired wealth through his own efforts until he made a hobby of his business.

The happiest people in the world are they who have to live within their means.

This policy of drift has, however, run its course. It will no longer save the English statesman who is charged with Irish affairs. The time has arrived when something must be done.

But the tragedy of it is that while the policy of drift effectively saved English statesmen in the past it has produced only bitterness and resentment in Ireland and incidentally it has hardened the price at which settlement can now be purchased. There is little doubt that if the Home Rule

Act which was placed on the Statute Book at the beginning of the war had been put in operation instead of being hung up, Nationalist Ireland would have been preserved in its spirit of good will toward England. Instead, a most vicious thing was allowed to happen. The Nationalists were encouraged in the idea that the Home Rule Act was placed on the Statute Book and if Nationalist Ireland recruited liberally and sent a fair quota to the war, the act would never be removed from the Statute Book.

Ulster Unionists, at the same time, were encouraged in the idea that a loyal response to call for men before the war would assure Ulster that the Home Rule Act should never be put in operation and these two mutually destructive ideas were allowed to grow. The Nationalists, at the bidding of John Redmond, recruited liberally. The Unionists also recruited liberally. The Coalition Government was formed and the leader of the Ulster Unionists, Sir Edward Carson, was given high office in the cabinet. From that moment suspicion grew; it had its fruition in the 1916 rebellion, and it was further manifested in the election of December of last year when Sinn Feinism swept the old constitutional nationalism out of existence.

At the moment the British Government is torn by two forces in regard to Ireland. There is the urgent need of settlement, and there is the still more urgent need of substituting law and order for the present seething lawlessness. The latter, according to Lord French, must come first. But no appeal to the present turbulent population which merely promises an ineffective Home Rule Bill will be the least avail. The country has been worked up to the idea that it has now got England "on the run"; that her clearing out of the country bag and baggage is merely a matter of days or weeks. Consequently the king's writ is still obstructed, and the production of the government's plans for settlement is delayed. The "army of occupation" is still in the country to the number of 60,000. Repressive measures are constant and far-reaching, but there is no sign of a change of disposition on the part of Sinn Fein. The deadlock continues, with its deadening and dangerous effects. Such a situation is not alone inimical to progress and development, but it is highly dangerous. That it may pass without a terrible and disastrous explosion is all that one can hope for.